

## Poetry.

### THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

"I am the light of the world."  
"Ye are the light of the world."

"To Macedon! To Macedon!  
O bringers of the dawn, press on!"  
So rings the cry imperious.  
"Thou hast the light God meant for us;  
A myriad hearts are waiting thee  
In darkling lands beyond the sea!  
"Thou canst not of our darkness guess,  
Too awful is its mournfulness,  
With God a dark, suspected power,  
And man His plaything for an hour,  
Life a dark mockery, that death,  
With blacker gloom, envelopeth.  
"Such darkness wraps our lands about;  
Thou hast the light! O flash it out,  
Till island, continent, and sea,  
Catching the beams that come from thee,  
Turn from the blackness of their night  
To light, to all-embracing light!  
"Light of the world indeed was He,  
The beacon set on Calvary;  
Light of the world indeed art thou;  
His name He gives thee. Now, O now,  
Arise and shine. In Macedon  
We wait the dawning, all and one.

"As He was in the world, thou art,  
To work His work, to play His part,  
To finish all that He began,  
To tell the love of God to man,  
Till man below and God above  
Love and are loved in utmost love!"

And still the cry rings on and on  
From out the darkling Macedon;  
For God and man alike beseech,  
Each yearning for the love of each;  
Brothers, to you and me they cry:  
Light of the world—are you?—am I?

—World-Wide Missions.

## Contributions.

### IRREVOCABLE SIN.

B. E. COPPOCK.

After enjoying the good time we had at our prayer meeting, and by the remarks made the next day in reference to some who were absent, this subject was brought to my mind. I take for a foundation for what I may say, from Hebrews 12: 17. Viz., "For he found no place of repentance though he sought it with tears."

There is an impression in almost every man's mind that somewhere in the future, there will be a chance when he can correct all mistakes, live as we may. If we only repent in time God will forgive all our sins, and then all will be as well as if we had never committed sin. What I shall say will come in collision with that theory. Esau had a birthright given to him. In olden times it not only meant temporal but spiritual blessings also; one day he traded it off for something to eat. Oh, the folly! but let us not be too se-

vere on him, for some of us have committed the *same* sin. First in this category of irrevocable sin, is the folly of a mis-spent youth. We look back to our college days and think how we neglected the study of chemistry, or geology, or botany, or mathematics. But alas! we may sorrow all the remainder of our days. But can we ever recall the advantages that we might have had, had we attended to those duties in early life? My brother, you can never recall them. No, never! they are gone and gone forever, you may be sorry for it, and God may forgive you. So you may at last reach heaven, but will ever remember things that were left undone, that will bring sorrow to your soul, as the result of your own neglect of early duty.

Next in this class of irrevocable sins is unkindness. While we have our friends with us, we say unguarded words that wound the feelings of those, to whom only kindness is due, and often how badly we feel. Perhaps in the course of time our friends are called to cross over, may be our parents, or our companion, and those that are left will then say, "Oh, those unkind words," if I could only recall them. But we can *never*. We might bow down over the grave of that loved one, and cry and mourn, but those white lips are stilled in death, and make no reply, and though you bow down on the grave and seek a place of repentance, and seek it carefully with tears, you cannot find it. There is another sin that may be classed with this class of sins, and that is lost opportunities of doing good, or getting good, if you please. I never come to the close of a week, but what I look back and see some golden, yet misspent opportunities of getting better.

Take if you please, a certain number of bushels of wheat, and scatter it over a certain number of acres of ground, you expect a harvest in proportion to the amount of seed scattered. And I ask now, have the sheaves of moral and spiritual harvest corresponded with the advantages given? We form resolutions for the future, but past opportunities are gone. The Arch angel's trumpet that wakes the dead, will not wake for us one of those privileges. Esau sold his birthright, and there is not wealth enough in the treasure house of heaven to buy it back. Again let one of those opportunities go by us one inch, and no man can catch it. Remember there are wrongs and sins that can never be corrected. We have a glorious birthright. Esau's was not so rich as ours. Let us cling to it. Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation.

Bloomer, Ohio.

### "LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD."

H. P. BRINKWORTH.

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." It is a day belonging to the Lord. We are strictly commanded by God to keep holy his day—to do no manner of work therein; to keep it as he kept it when he rested from the six days' work of creation. Why? Because he has hallowed it and blessed it and set it apart for that special purpose that man may consecrate himself and worship the Lord his God, and him only shall he serve.

The prophet Malachi asks the question, "Will a man rob God?" And he says, "Yet have ye robbed me in tithe and offerings." Shall professed Christians rob God of the seventh day, sacredly consecrated to his own worship? Thus worshipping other gods and stealing the Lord's day for our own pleasure and vanity and foolishness. Can we do so, and offer a valid excuse when God says he is a jealous God, and commands us to keep holy? Oh, professing Christians, either lay your religion aside altogether, or worship God with the whole heart.

The Apostle declares that the time will come when men will be "LOVERS OF PLEASURE MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD." We ask you, Has that time come? Look at the national games of base ball played on the Lord's day. Look at the clubs of American Wheelmen on excursions to near by towns and far off cities on the Lord's day. Look at the Railroad Corporations for greed and gain, offering excursions to summer resorts—soldier's homes etc., etc., and all on the Lord's day, and where are the Lord's chosen, humble followers? Are any of them among this great band of Sabbath breakers and desecrators? Why are the churches so empty and deserted and the cars so crowded? Because the Scripture is fulfilled—LOVERS OF PLEASURE, MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD.

Were the Lord to visit this earth with a curse we should not wonder, we have merited his righteous displeasure, we have gone astray, we have bowed down and worshiped other gods, and ought to bow down in sack cloth and ashes, and ask God to forgive us. We should return again to him, we should remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, and become as Christians should, ever at the house of God to worship before him, on his day. Let us not rob God any more, but rather use one of the six days he has given us for work or pleasure.

"THE only way to keep clear of sin is to keep close to Christ."